

REMARKS

The claims have been amended responsive to the Examiner's comments in view of the newly cited references, and consideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully
5 requested.

Responsive to the Examiner's comments in the Office Action, page 2, clause 1, regarding drawing objections, the term "measuring" in the affected claims (claims 10-13, 25-28, 35-37) has been replaced with the term --sensing--, to concord with the supporting disclosure, for example as set forth in the incorporated U.S. Patent 4,322,633, column 3, lines 36-38, noting: *the reference electrode 37 senses the potential at or near a submerged portion of the drive unit 22 and supplies a potential indicative signal.* The reference electrode in the present application drawings is shown at 34 in Figs. 2, 3.

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) over Nakamura U.S. Patent 5,716,248. The element "housing structure" of claim 1 has been broadly interpreted under this rejection. In
15 response, applicant has accordingly narrowed and specified the definition of housing structure, to be further discussed below. Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) over Guinn U.S. Patent 4,604,068. The Examiner notes that the claim does not recite the connection of the battery to the anode. In response, applicant has specifically recited an ohmic connection, to be discussed below. Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) over Showcatally
20 U.S. 6,562,206. The Examiner notes anode 20. Claims 1-9, 14-24, and 29-34 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Staerzl U.S. Patent 6,209,472 in view of Klimowicz U.S. Patent 5,636,587. The Examiner notes mounting structure to a transom. Claims
25 1-3, and 9-13 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Staerzl U.S. Patent 4,528,460 in view of Klimowicz '587. The Examiner notes voltage reference point 13. Claims 10-13, 25-28, and 35-37 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) over Staerzl '472 in view of Klimowicz '587 and further in view of Staerzl '460.

Claim 1 has been amended to require the defined housing structure (16) including a driveshaft housing (22) extending downwardly to a gear case (18), a driveshaft in the driveshaft housing being connected in torque transmitting relation with a propeller shaft in the gear case for rotating a propeller. This is supported in the specification at page 8, lines 9-15. These
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limitations are responsive to the Examiner's comments broadly applying a "housing structure" adapted to be mounted for support on a transom of a marine vessel.

Claim 1 has further been amended to require ohmically connecting (62) the anode to the source of electrical power (60). This is in response to the Examiner's comment at the final sentence of page 3 of the Office Action indicating that the claim does not recite the noted connection.

It is believed that claim 1 now patentably distinguishes over the art. Nakamura '248, Guinn '068, Showcatally '206 having anodes 31, 138, 20, respectively, of sacrificial anodic material, which are not ohmically connected to a source of electrical power as required by claim 1. Klimowicz '587, Staerzl '472, Staerzl '460 do not teach or suggest the defined housing structure (including a driveshaft housing extending downwardly to a gear case, a driveshaft in the driveshaft housing being connected in torque transmitting relation with a propeller shaft in the gear case for rotating a propeller) acting as an anode in a galvanic circuit which comprises such housing structure, a metallic component (e.g. 26), and water in which the housing structure (16) and the metallic component are at least partially submerged. Consideration and allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1 and are believed allowable for the reasons noted above. Furthermore, these claims define subcombinations which are believed allowable.

Claim 4 depends from claim 1 and is believed allowable for the reasons noted above. Furthermore, claim 4 has been amended to require ohmically connecting the electrically conductive coating (70) on the defined housing structure (see parent claim 1) to the source of electrical power (60). This is nowhere taught in the references. Consideration and allowance of claim 4 is respectfully requested.

Claims 5-13 depend from respective parent claims and are believed allowable for the reasons noted above. Furthermore, these claims define subcombinations which are believed allowable. Additionally, claim 9 has been amended to require impressing a current on the electrically conductive coating (70) from the source of electrical power (60) through the ohmic connection (62) between the source of electrical power and the electrically conductive coating.

Amended claim 14 further defines the noted housing structure as specified above, and further requires ohmically connecting (62) the electrically conductive coating (70) to the source of electrical power (60). Consideration and allowance of claim 14 is respectfully requested.

Claims 15-28 depend from respective parent claims and are believed allowable for the reasons noted above. Furthermore, these claims define subcombinations which are believed allowable. Additionally, claim 15 requires providing the noted ohmic circuit and the noted galvanic circuit, which is not taught in the references. Additionally, claim 24 requires 5 impressing a current on the electrically conductive coating (70) from the source of electrical power (60) through the ohmic connection (62) between the source of electrical power and the electrically conductive coating. This is not taught in the references.

Claim 29 has been amended to further limit the housing structure as specified above, and requires ohmically connecting (62) the source of electrical power (60) to the defined electrically 10 conductive coating (70). Consideration and allowance of claim 29 is respectfully requested.

Claims 30-37 depend from respective parent claims and are believed allowable for the reasons noted above. Furthermore, these claims define subcombinations which are believed allowable. Additionally, amended claim 35 requires impressing a current on the electrically conductive coating (70) from the source of electrical power (60) through the ohmic connection 15 (62) between the source of electrical power and the electrically conductive coating.

It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance with claims 1-37 and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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